

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
U.S. Non-Provisional Application Serial No. 09/582,950

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

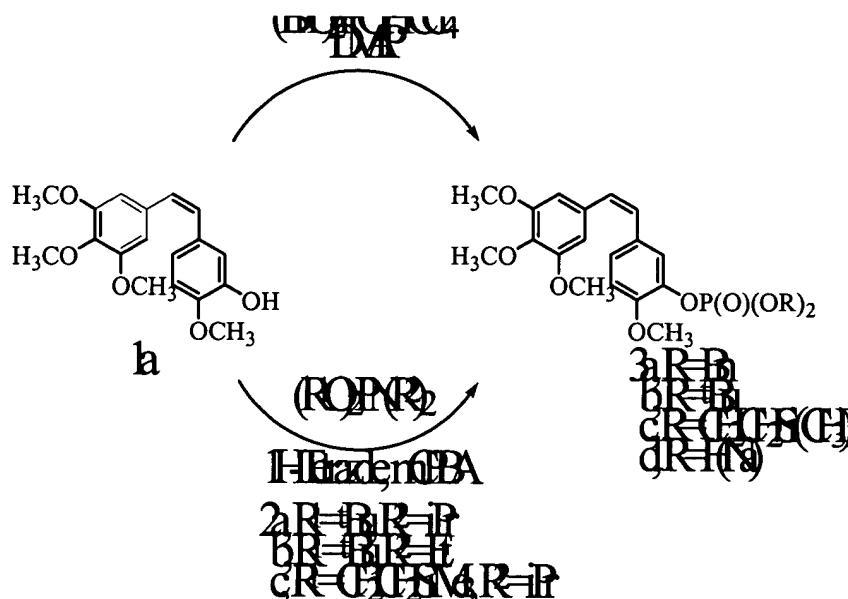
Please insert the following paragraph at the beginning of the specification, after the title page:

This application is the U.S. national phase of PCT/US99/00419 filed January 8, 1999, which claims priority to U.S. provisional applications nos. 60/071,070 filed January 9, 1998 and 60/111,531 filed December 9, 1999.

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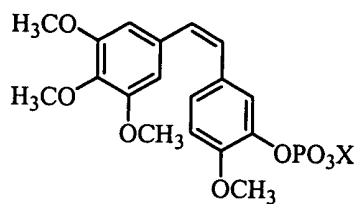
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Please insert the figure below in place of the figure shown on top of page 7 of the originally filed specification. This amendment corrects a typographical error in the chemical formula for the phosphoramidites used in the reaction (which appears directly above the bottom arrow), from " $(R^1O)_2PN^2_2$ " to " $(R^1O)_2PN(R^2)_2$ ".



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Please insert the figure below in place of the figure shown on the bottom of page 8 of the originally filed specification, correcting the spelling of "divavalent" to "divalent".



where X = H(Z) (monovalent)

or

X = Z (divalent)

5a	Z = Ca ²⁺	g	Z = imidazole	m	Z = adenosine
b	Z = Cs ²⁺	h	Z = morpholine	n	Z = cinchonine
c	Z = Li ⁺	i	Z = piperazine	o	Z = glucosamine
d	Z = Mg ²⁺	j	Z = piperidine	p	Z = quinine
e	Z = Mn ²⁺	k	Z = pyrazole	q	Z = quinidine
f	Z = Zn ²⁺	l	Z = pyridine	r	Z = tetracycline
				s	Z = verapamil